

What to WATCH

STAR SPORTS SELECT 1

English Premier League
Brighton & Hove v Crystal Palace
Live from 6:15pm
Bournemouth v Chelsea
Live from 8:50pm
Watford v Liverpool

Live from 11:20pm

STAR SPORTS SELECT 2
Bundesliga
Hoffenheim v Bayern Munich
Live from 8:50pm
FC Koln v Schalke
Live from 11:20pm

STAR SPORTS 1

New Zealand v India
Second Test, Day 2
Live from 4:30am (Sunday)
STAR SPORTS 2
ICC Women's T20 World Cup
Bangladesh v New Zealand
Live from 6:00am

India v Sri Lanka

Live from 10:00am
SONY SIX
South Africa v Australia
First ODI (D/N)
Live from 5:00pm
TEN 2
Serie A

Lazio v Bologna
Live from 8:00pm
Udinese v Fiorentina
Live from 11:00pm
Napoli v Torino
Live from 1:45am (Sunday)



Olympiakos striker Youssef El-Arabi scored in the 120th minute of their Europa League fixture against Arsenal at the Emirates Stadium on Friday to dump the Gunners out of the competition. PHOTO: AFP

Arsenal, Ajax knocked out

Man Utd, Inter Milan, Olympiakos advance

AFP, Paris

Youssef El-Arabi scored in the last minute of extra-time as Olympiakos knocked Arsenal out of the Europa League on Thursday on a night when four former European champions were eliminated.

Ajax, Celtic, Benfica and Porto went out but Manchester United hardly broke sweat after Simon Deli of Brugge conceded a penalty and earned a red card in the 23rd minute at Old Trafford and won 5-0.

Arsenal had won the first leg of the round of 32 tie 1-0 in Greece.

Defender Pape Abou Cisse cancelled out that advantage when he headed in a corner after 53 minutes.

Arsenal could not break through and were forced to extra time.

Giorgos Masouras hit the bar for Olympiakos in the 112th minute and a minute later Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang struck for Arsenal, putting them back in front with a spectacular flying kick.

However, in the final minute of extra time, Arsenal cleared an Olympiakos corner but were still disorganised when the ball was swung back into the area.

The cross found El Arabi free in front of goal for an unchallenged shot.

"Very hard, very tough," said Aubameyang. "Their last-minute goal was unlucky for us."

Last year Arsenal reached the final.

"It hurts a lot," said Mikel Arteta, the Arsenal manager. "Attack against defence in 25 metres is difficult, but we created enough chances to win the game comfortably."

Olympiakos coach Pedro Martins was delighted.

"We were determined, we believed we could qualify and we made it," said he said. "Tactical intelligence,

effectiveness, inner strength, courage... they all weighed in this success."

At Old Trafford, one of United's recent signings Bruno Fernandes gave the hosts the lead with a penalty after Deli's flying intervention.

The other new boy, Odion Ighalo, making his first start, hit his first goal for the club in the 34th minute.

For the Nigerian, who says United were his childhood club, it was a moment to celebrate, but the emotion was mixed.

Ighalo lifted his shirt to reveal a picture of his sister Mary Atole who

brought that in."

Ajax, Champions League semifinalists last year, kicked off two goals down to Getafe, this season's Liga surprise team, and conceded another after five minutes.

Jaime Mata exploited tentative Ajax defending to spin and drill in a low shot from close range.

That left the home needed needing to score four, they managed two, the first from young Brazilian Danilo Pereira, with his first for the club, and an own goal when Mathias Olivera deflected a free kick. Getafe held on comfortably.

Copenhagen scored three goals on three shots as they won 3-1 at Celtic, but deserved the victory.

Jozo Simunovic's weak back pass gave Copenhagen the ball close to goal after 51 minutes and Micheal Santos completed the punishment.

With seven minutes left, Odsonne Edouard levelled with a penalty but as Celtic tried to press, their defence panicked twice in the last five minutes. Pep Biel and Dame N'Doye coolly accepted the gifts to make the aggregate score 4-2.

"It just wasn't our day and we're big boys, we can take it on the chin and we've got to make sure we bounce back," said Celtic captain Craig Brown

Benfica went out 5-4 on aggregate after repeatedly throwing away the initiative as they drew 3-3 at home to Romanians Cluj.

Porto subsided 3-1 at home to Bayer Leverkusen to go out 5-2 overall.

Inter Milan beat Ludogorets 2-1 to advance 4-1 in a match played in an empty San Siro because fans were banned to avoid spreading coronavirus.

The game between FC Salzburg and Eintracht Frankfurt was postponed because of a forecast of dangerously high winds and will be played on Friday.

Wins for Cox's Bazar, Chuadanga

SPORTS REPORTER

Baitus Sharaf Jabbaria Academy of Cox's Bazar notched a 2-1 win over Police Lines School, Mymensingh in the First Security Islami Bank National School Hockey Championship at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Sakib Uddin and Mehdi Islam Sagar scored one goal apiece for the Cox's Bazar side. In the second match of the day, MA Bari High School of Chuadanga beat Rafiqueuddin Memorial High School of Cumilla 1-0, with Biplob Hossain netting the decisive goal.

BFF polls on April 20

SPORTS REPORTER



The much-talked about elections of Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) will be held on April 20, 10 days before the expiration of the current executive committee, according to a decision made yesterday at the 18th meeting of the executive committee.

"We are at the end of our third tenure which will expire on April 30. Today's meeting decided to take elections forward to April 20 from its scheduled time due to Ramadan, which is expected to get underway on April 25. We decided to hold the BFF elections before Ramadan because it will be difficult for the councillors to come and stay in Dhaka during Ramadan," BFF's senior vice-president Abdus Salam Mursheedy said after the meeting, which was presided over by president Kazi Salahuddin.

Even though the last elections, in 2016, were held at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Dhaka, the elections this year will take place at the headquarters of Bangladesh football.

"We don't see any risk in holding the elections at the BFF house as all BFF delegates are decent and we all are family members," Salam said. "We have formed a three-member election commission with Mezbah Uddin Ahmed as its head while Mahfuzur Rahman Siddique and Motahar Uddin Saju were nominated as election commissioners."

The meeting also decided to start the Bangladesh Championship League on March 28 with 13 teams after accepting the withdrawal of Team BJMC.

The meeting also extended the tenure of acting technical director Stuart Watkiss for three months up to May 30 while also approving participation of 10 district teams, which are playing in the final round of Bangabandhu National Football Championship, for the upcoming Bangladesh Games.

The build-up to the elections has kept the football scene heated for nearly two years before business-man-turned sports organiser Tarafder Ruhul Amin, also secretary general of Bangladesh Divisional and District Football Association and president of Bangladesh Club Association, opted out of the race, leaving Salahuddin, who wants to run for president for the fourth successive term, apparently unchallenged.

Incumbent vice-president Badal Roy, however, declared not to leave the field empty in case no one else comes forward to challenge Salahuddin, who has been at the helm for 12 years.

"A change is needed in football federation's leadership and I think a change will come through the April 20 elections. I also believe the announcement of BFF polls will create hope among councillors and countrymen, who want to see change in BFF's leadership," said Roy, who was a close ally of Salahuddin for nearly seven years.

While there are question marks regarding the development of country's football over the past 12 years, Mursheedy believes everything will be judged by the councillors in the elections even though he feels satisfied with the work he has done under the leadership of Salahuddin.

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Nigerian striker Odion Ighalo dedicated his first goal for Manchester United -- a 34th-minute strike against Club Brugge in their Europa League fixture at Old Trafford on Friday -- to his late sister, who passed away in December last year. PHOTO: REUTERS

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